



File Code: 2670

Date: December 2, 2021

Route To: File

Subject: Forest Order No. 05-15-00-21-25 – Parking Restrictions

From: Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing a Forest Order restricting parking or leaving a motor vehicle or trailer in one place for more than 14 days within any 30-day period on the Sierra National Forest. Forest Order No. 05-15-00-21-25 will be effective from December 3, 2021, through December 2, 2023.

The establishment of a 14-day restriction for parking on the Forest is expected to discourage long-term parking by neighboring landowners and forest visitors. Occupancy limits are needed to ensure that visitors are not kept from the use of developed or undeveloped sites, because of their monopolization by a few. It is not uncommon for people to set up campers or trailers as season-long residences used as weekend retreats, depriving others of coveted sites. Such occurrences often cause conflict with other forest visitors and the “first come, first serve” approach to fair recreation. Therefore, this Order imposes a restriction to limit the parking or leaving of a motor vehicle or trailer in a developed or undeveloped site to 14 days in a 30-day period. Normally, people who are camping travel in a motor vehicle.

Scoping efforts included discussions with California Land Management who concurred with the parking limits, and their effect on designated recreational sites. I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 C.F.R. § 220.6(d)(1) - prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety - and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

This Order includes an exemption for persons holding a Forest Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order (Form FS-7700-48). Authorization under this exemption will only be provided if I or my delegate determine that the risk to personal health and safety is reasonable considering the circumstances of the request. We may also require appropriate personal protective equipment and other necessary safety measures. I hereby delegate the authority to sign Form FS-7700-48 granting an exemption to this order to the District Rangers of the Sierra National Forest.

